

## Community resources

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courage is contagious

## Viewing cable 08YEREVAN873, CRIME SPREE PROMPTS CHARGES OF "CRIMINAL STATE" BY OPPOSITION

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags `#cablegate` and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. `#08YEREVAN873`.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">08YEREVAN873</a>	2008-11-03 14:37	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Yerevan

Appears in these articles:

[http://rusrep.ru/article/2011/02/08/crime\\_armenia/](http://rusrep.ru/article/2011/02/08/crime_armenia/)

VZCZCXRO1755  
RR RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHROV RUEHSR  
DE RUEHYE #0873/01 3081437  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
R 031437Z NOV 08  
FM AMEMBASSY YEREVAN  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8217  
INFO RUEHZA/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION WASHINGTON DC  
  
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 YEREVAN 000873  
  
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/02/2018  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PINS](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [AM](#)  
SUBJECT: CRIME SPREE PROMPTS CHARGES OF "CRIMINAL STATE" BY OPPOSITION

REF: YEREVAN 599 YEREVAN 00000873 001.2 OF 003

### SUMMARY

[¶1.](#) (C) A recent string of unconnected violent attacks around Armenia has prompted the opposition to decry the emergence of a "criminal state." ARMENIA'S BLOODY NORTH

[¶2.](#) (SBU) Late on Friday, October 24, two unrelated attacks occurred in the northern cities of Spitak (population 13,590) and Stepanavan (popul

[¶3.](#) (U) In Stepanavan, an agricultural town located approximately 30 miles to the north of Spitak, the two-term incumbent mayor Sarkis Gharakes

[¶4.](#) (U) The attack on Gharakeshishian took place between 10-11 pm in a restaurant he owns on the outskirts of town where he was alone with one

[¶5.](#) (C) All of the wounded were immediately treated in Stepanavan's German-built Red Cross hospital, with the Mayor then being transferred to YEREVAN'S VENDETTA MURDER AND DISCOTHEQUE VIOLENCE

[¶6.](#) (SBU) On October 26 in broad daylight in one of Yerevan's central neighborhoods, two young men shot and killed one man, while wounding his

[¶7.](#) (SBU) Also over the same weekend, violence broke out in two separate Yerevan discotheques, where a shootout in one of them reportedly left OPPOSITION CALLS CRIME SPREE PROOF OF CRIMINAL STATE

[¶8.](#) (SBU) On October 29, the Armenian National Congress led by ex-President Levon Ter-Petrosian released a statement condemning the recent vic DUTCH BUSINESSMAN ATTACKED AGAIN

[¶9.](#) (SBU) In a separate, unrelated attack, Hans Boon, the Dutch director of HayPost whose firm (PostBank) won a tender last year to operate and UKRAINIAN AMBASSADOR'S APARTMENT RANSACKED

[¶11.](#) (C) Ukraine's Ambassador to Armenia recently shared with the Ambassador that his apartment was broken into on Sunday, October 19. He belie COMMENT

[¶12.](#) (C) Armenia and the city of Yerevan have traditionally been quite safe cities for average citizens and for visiting foreigners. Lawlessness

[¶13.](#) (C) The various incidents grouped together in this cable have in common their recent timing and the fact they were incidents of violence, YOVANOVITCH